

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /068 W

-----171509 079182 /46

R 171202Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2090

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LOME

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 1678

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, OAU

SUBJ: OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING, LOME, FEBRUARY 22-26

REF: (A) STATE 032906 (B) STATE 034960

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION ON OTHER MATTERS, DCM MENTIONED FORTHCOMING OAU MEETING TO FONOFF DIRECTOR OF CABINET NOUAMA. LATTER SAID THAT WHILE LOME OFFERED OPPORTUNITY FOR WIDERANGING INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, BASIC PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO WORK OUT OAU BUDGET. HE DID NOT EXPECT SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS ON IMPORTANT AFRICAN OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

2. REGARDING NORTHEAST AFRICA SITUATION, NOUAMA SAID THAT IVORIAN POSITION IN ALL CASES OF CONFLICT WAS TO SUPPORT PEACEFUL DISCUSSION AND DIALOGUE. HOWEVER HE SPOKE OF PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET'S CONVICTION THAT BOUNDARIES ESTABLISHED IN COLONIAL ERA SHOULD BE MAINTAINED, EVEN WHERE THEY HAD BEEN ARBITRARILY DRAWN. THIS CAUSED PROBLEMS EVEN IN IVORY COAST, WHERE MANY FAMILIES HAD CLOSE RELATIVES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. NEVERTHELESS, BOUNDARY CHANGES COULD NOT BUT CAUSE ADDITIONAL HARDSHIPS AND INJUSTICES, AND IVORY COAST COULD NOT SUPPORT SOMALI AMBITIONS OR ERITREAN INSURGENCE IN  
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ETHIOPIA. NOUAMA RECALLED AN EARLY OAU RESOLUTION SUPPORTING COLONIAL BOUNDARIES, WHICH HAD BEEN TOO OFTEN FORGOTTEN. HE SAID THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FOR SUGGESTED TRANSFER OF OAU HEADQUARTERS FROM ADDIS ABABA, SINCE SITUATION THERE CLEARLY DETERIORATING, BUT COULD OFFER NO SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW OAU MINISTERS,

OR CHIEFS OF STATE FOR THAT MATTER, COULD APPROACH THIS SENSITIVE

ISSUE.

3. FONMIN USHER WILL ATTEND LOME MINISTERIAL, LEAVING ABIDJAN  
FEBRUARY 20. NOUAMA REITERATED THERE WAS NO SET AGENDA FOR LOME  
MEETING OTHER THAN BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS. DISCUSSIONS OF  
OTHER ISSUES HE SAID WOULD BE INFORMAL AND INCONCLUSIVE. OAU  
WOULD LIKELY NOT FORMALLY ADDRESS QUESTIONS SUCH AS RECOGNITION  
OF PATRIOTIC FRONT UNTIL JUNE SUMMIT MEETING IN GABON.  
STEARNS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009